

Message Text

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15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 /018 W

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R 180625Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2162

INFO USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS JIDDA 5758

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA, LE

SUBJECT: BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TRADE FAIR

REF: USDOC 11999

1. EMBASSY NOTES IN REFTEL AND IN TELCON OF 8/12/75 BETWEEN EBLAN, MANZALILLO, HORAN AND BUTCHER, THAT SUBJECT FAIR NOW INCLUDES PLAN TO BUILD SIX (6) TO SEVEN (7) FULL SIZE HOMES. AREA FOR FAIR IS NOT LARGE ENOUGH FOR THESE HOMES. EMBASSY HAS ALTERNATE SUGGESTION WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD KILL SEVERAL BIRDS WITH ONE STONE.

2. EMBASSY HOUSING PROBLEMS ARE GROWING MORE ACUTE WITH EACH PASSING DAY. RENTAL COSTS ARE ESCALATING RAPIDLY AND EMBASSY STAFF IS INCREASING. WE THEREFORE, RECOMMEND THAT HOUSES IN QUESTION BE BUILT ON THE EMBASSY COMPOUND TO BE PURCHASED BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT AT A NOMINAL FEE AFTER COMPLETION OF FAIR. IF THE HOUSES WERE BUILT AT THE CURRENT FAIR SITE, THEY WOULD CERTAINLY BE TORN DOWN UPON COMPLETION OF FAIR. GIVEN APPROPRIATE FUNDING EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE FOR ADEQUATE FOUNDATION, UTILITIES AND ACCESS ROADS TO HOUSES ON COMPOUND. EXISTING SPACE IS ADEQUATE. HOUSES WILL THEN APPEAR TO THEIR BEST ADVANTAGE AND HAVE MATERIAL FUTURE USE. CONSTRUCTION COULD BEGIN AS SOON AS AUTHORIZATION IS RECEIVED INSTEAD OF WAITING UNTIL MARCH, AS WILL OTHERWISE BE NECESSARY.

3. EMBASSY COULD CONSTRUCT DIRECT ACCESS BY PUBLIC TO
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HOUSES AND STILL MAINTAIN COMPOUND SECURITY. WE WOULD

ALSO PROVIDE PUBLICITY, INCLUDING FLAGS, AND PRESS COVERAGE.
HOLDING EXHIBITION ON EMBASSY GROUNDS WOULD GIVE WEIGHT TO
THE SHOW AND WOULD ALLOW US TO MAKE USE OF BI-CENTENNIAL
MATERIAL.

4. REQUEST DEPARTMENT IMMEDIATELY BEGIN DISCUSSIONS WITH
FBO, USDOC AND BUILDERS TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF THIS
IDEA. WE SHOULD LIKE TO HAVE FULL DESCRIPTION OF MODEL
HOMES TO BE BUILT. IF THEY ARE TO BE BUILT AND SHOWN ON
EMBASSY COMPOUND, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF FBO ENGINEER AND
USDOC REPRESENTATIVE COULD ARRIVE JIDDA SOONEST.

DEPARTMENT WILL APPRECIATE THAT ABOVE PROPOSAL WILL
REQUIRE USING SPACE ON COMPOUND NOW PART OF GOLF COURSE,
BUT WE WILLING TO SACRIFICE THIS RECREATIONAL OUT-
LET TO OBTAIN MORE ADEQUATE AND ADDITIONAL HOUSING FOR
STAFF.
HORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975JIDDA05758
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750284-0577
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750844/aaaabmmm.tel
Line Count: 79
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ellisoob
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JAN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JAN 2003 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <16 MAR 2004 by ellisoob>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BUILDING MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT TRADE FAIR
TAGS: BEXP, SA, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006